

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-04 SS-20 NSC-05 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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P R 111935Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6611

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 4087

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PINT, ES, EFIN, IBRD

SUBJECT: FINANCE MINISTER GAVIDIA RESIGNS

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

1. FINANCE MINISTER DR. VICENTE AMADO GAVIDIA HIDALGO, A HOLD-OVER FROM THE SANCHEZ HERNANDEZ ADMINISTRATION, RESIGNED OCTOBER 9 TO ACCEPT A TWO-YEAR TERM AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ONE OF THREE LATIN AMERICAN GROUPS IN IBRD. THE RESIGNATION TAKES EFFECT NOVEMBER 1. NO SUCCESSOR HAS YET BEEN NAMED.

2. COMMENT: IN ANNOUNCING GAVIDIA'S RESIGNATION, PRESIDENT MOLINA WARNED THAT IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A "CRISIS OF GOVERNMENT." WE KNOW THAT GAVIDIA, A QUIET, COMPETENT TECHNICIAN HAS FOR PERSONAL REASONS (HE CLAIMS TO BE WORN OUT AFTER FOUR YEARS IN THIS TAXING OFFICE) BEEN LOOKING FOR ANOTHER JOB FOR MANY MONTHS, AND THE WELL-PAYING, PRESTIGIOUS IBRD POSITION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY HIGHLY ATTRACTIVE TO HIM. IN CONTRAST TO OTHER RECENT CABINET RESIGNATIONS, GAVIDIA'S SPARKED LITTLE SPECULATION OVER ITS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THUS, MOLINA'S WARNING SEEMS TO HAVE IRONIC SIGNIFICANCE AND MAY BE
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A CASE OF ONCE BITTEN, TWICE SHY.

3. ACCORDING TO GAVIDIA, SUBSECRETARY RIGOBERTO MARTINEZ WILL
SERVE AS ACTING MINISTER THROUGH THE END OF 1974 SINCE THE
GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE NOT TO BRING IN A NEW MINISTER TO
PRESENT AND DEFEND THE 1975 NATIONAL BUDGET. THUS FAR, THE ONLY
NAME MENTIONED PUBLICLY AS A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO GAVIDIA IS THAT
OF RICARDO ALFREDO MAIDA, A LITTLE-KNOWN LAWYER ABOUT 40 YEARS
OLD. WE UNDERSTAND THAT MAIDA HAS NO BACKGROUND IN FINANCIAL AND
FISCAL AFFAIRS.
CAMPBELL

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